



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Chancellor

August 12, 2011

The Honorable Mary M. Cheh
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Councilmember Cheh:

Thank you for your recent letter suggesting the need for a middle school in Ward 3. We share your concerns about the distribution of quality choices - at all grade levels - across the city; however, we recognize this as a citywide issue that will best be addressed systemically.

As an important first step, the Deputy Mayor for Education has commissioned a study by the Illinois Facilities Fund (IFF), a well-regarded non-profit community development financial institution that provides real estate financing services and conducts research in the education sector. IFF will conduct a neighborhood-based study of school capacity in the District based on school performance. The results of this study will be released publicly in October and feed into the master facilities planning work led by Deputy Mayor Wright. All of this work will also include a robust community engagement component, including the Council.

We are grateful for your continued support of the students and staff of DCPS, and we look forward to the opportunity to engage in a comprehensive process to address this issue.

Sincerely,

Kaya Henderson
Chancellor

cc: Mayor Vincent C. Gray
Deputy Mayor DeShawn Wright
Chairman Kwame R. Brown
Councilmember Jack Evans
State Board Member Ted Trabue
State Board Member Laura Slover